

CORPS ENGINEER OPERATIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Preface	ix
Chapter 1. Corps Engineer Operations	1-1
The Role of Corps Engineer Forces	1-1
The Corps	1-1
The Corps Engineer Brigade	1-2
Simultaneous Operations	1-2
Corps Battlefield Operating Systems	1-6
Types of Engineer Organizations	1-11
Corps Engineer Units	1-11
Corps Engineer Support to Divisions, Separate Brigades, and Cavalry Regiments	1-16
Theater Engineer Support to the Corps	1-18
Chapter 2. Command and Control	2-1
The Corps Engineer Brigade Commander and His Staff	2-1
Command	2-1
Control	2-2
Corps Engineer Command and Control Organization	2-4
Corps Engineer Brigade	2-6
Corps Staff Engineer Section	2-9
Corps Engineer Group	2-13
Corps Engineer Battalion	2-18
Corps Engineer Company	2-20
Corps Engineer Planning Process	2-22
Engineer Estimate	2-22
Corps Plans and Orders	2-23
Corps Engineer Synchronization	2-29

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	Page
Corps Engineer Task Organization	2-29
Engineer Command and Support Relationships	2-32
Corps Engineer Orders and Plans	2-35
Corps Engineer Information Requirements	2-37
 Chapter 3. Force Projection	 3-1
Force-Projection Considerations	3-1
Lethality for the Deploying Force	3-2
Anticipation and Intelligence	3-2
Force Tailoring and Teamwork	3-2
Joint Battle Command	3-2
Logistics	3-3
Training and Multinational Operations	3-3
Media Impact	3-3
Postconflict	3-3
Force-Projection Operations	3-3
Mobilization	3-3
Predeployment	3-4
Deployment	3-4
Entry Operations	3-6
Combat Operations	3-9
Conflict Termination and Postconflict Operations	3-12
Redeployment and Reconstitution	3-13
Demobilization	3-14
Joint Operations	3-14
Air Force Support	3-16
Navy and Marine Corps Support	3-16
Multinational Operations	3-17
Operations Other than War	3-17
 Chapter 4. Logistics	 4-1
The Underpinnings of Logistics	4-1
Logistics Characteristics	4-2
Anticipation	4-2
Integration	4-3
Continuity	4-4
Responsiveness	4-4
Improvisation	4-4
Logistics Planning Considerations	4-4
Logistics Preparation of the Theater	4-4
Logistics Force Composition	4-5
Logistics Priorities	4-5
Joint Logistics	4-5
Multinational Logistics	4-6

	Page
Foreign/Host-Nation Support	4-6
Construction Contracting Activities	4-7
Logistics Civil Augmentation Program	4-8
Captured Enemy Resources	4-8
Supporting Operations Other Than War	4-8
Corps Logistics Operations	4-8
Corps Support Command	4-9
Command and Support Relationships	4-11
Personnel-Services Support	4-11
Health-Services Support	4-13
Supply Support	4-14
Transportation and Movement	4-20
Maintenance Support	4-22
Field-Services Support	4-23
Corps Engineer Support to Logistics Operations	4-23
Lines-of-Communication Construction	4-23
Medical-Facility Construction	4-23
Reconstitution Support	4-26
Logistics Force-Protection Support	4-26
Corps Engineer Logistics Concept	4-26
Corps Engineer Logistics Laydown	4-27
Flow of Support	4-27
Key Corps Engineer Logistics Leaders	4-28
Corps Engineer Logistics Command and Control	4-31
The Corps Engineer's Role in Planning and Coordinating Logistics	4-33
 Chapter 5. Offensive Operations	 5-1
Purpose of the Offense	5-1
Offensive Characteristics	5-2
Surprise	5-2
Concentration	5-2
Tempo	5-2
Audacity	5-2
Forms of the Corps Tactical Offense	5-2
Movement to Contact	5-3
Attack	5-6
Exploitation	5-11
Pursuit	5-13
Corps Offensive Forms of Maneuver	5-13
Envelopment	5-14
Turning Movement	5-16
Infiltration	5-16
Penetration	5-16
Frontal Attack	5-19
Corps Operations in Depth	5-19

	Page
Deep Operations	5-20
Close Operations	5-21
Rear Operations	5-22
Reconnaissance and Security Operations	5-22
Reserve Operations	5-23
Engineer Offensive Planning	5-23
Mission Analysis	5-23
Course-of-Action Development	5-24
Orders Development	5-25
Preparing for Attacks	5-26
Conducting Attacks	5-27
 Chapter 6. Defensive Operations	 6-1
Purpose of the Defense	6-1
Characteristics of Defensive Operations	6-2
Preparation	6-2
Security	6-2
Disruption	6-3
Mass and Concentration	6-3
Flexibility	6-4
Defensive Patterns	6-4
Mobile Defense	6-4
Area Defense	6-6
Operations in Depth	6-8
Deep Operations	6-8
Security Operations	6-8
Main-Battle-Area Operations	6-9
Reserve Operations	6-12
Rear Operations	6-13
Deception Operations	6-14
Engineer Defensive Planning	6-15
Mission Receipt	6-15
Terrain Analysis	6-17
Enemy Engineer Capability	6-17
Friendly Engineer Capability	6-17
Engineer Tasks	6-17
Corps Commander's Intent	6-17
Course-of-Action Analysis	6-17
Engineer Main Effort	6-18
Engineer Command and Control	6-18
Engineer Logistics Support	6-18
Orders Development	6-18
Preparing, Conducting, and Terminating the Defense	6-19
Preparing the Defense	6-19
Conducting the Defense	6-20

	Page
Terminating the Defense	6-20
Transition to Offensive Operations	6-21
Chapter 7. Other Operations	7-1
Large-Scale Mobility Operations	7-2
Large-Scale Breaching Operations	7-2
River-Crossing Operations	7-6
Retrograde Operations	7-8
Delays, Withdrawals, and Retirements	7-8
Retrograde River Crossings	7-8
Retrograde Planning	7-9
Corps Engineer Support	7-10
Relief in Place	7-10
Considerations	7-10
Corps Engineer Support	7-11
Passage of Lines	7-11
Planning	7-11
Corps Engineer Support	7-12
Encircled Friendly-Force Operations	7-13
Corps Commander Responsibilities	7-13
Corps Engineer Support	7-13
Breakout Operations	7-13
Encircled Defense	7-14
Exfiltration	7-14
Encircled Enemy Forces	7-15
Large-Scale Unit Movement	7-15
Linkup Operations	7-16
Reconstitution	7-17
Reorganization	7-17
Assessment	7-18
Regeneration	7-18
Large-Scale Decontamination Operations	7-18
Chapter 8. Operations Other Than War	8-1
Introduction	8-1
Principles of Operations Other Than War	8-2
Objective	8-2
Unity of Effort	8-2
Legitimacy	8-3
Perseverance	8-3
Restraint	8-3
Security	8-4
Engineer Support to Operation-Other-Than-War Missions	8-4
Arms Control	8-4

	Page
Attacks and Raids	8-4
Combatting Terrorism	8-5
Disaster Relief	8-5
Humanitarian Assistance	8-6
Nation Assistance	8-6
Support to Insurgency and Counterinsurgency	8-6
Noncombatant Evacuation Operations	8-7
Peace Operations	8-7
Demonstrations and Shows of Force	8-9
Security Assistance	8-9
Support to Civil Authorities	8-9
Support to Counterdrug Operations	8-9
Engineer Considerations	8-10
Engineer Assessment	8-10
Joint Engineer Command and Control	8-11
Topographic Support	8-11
Construction Support	8-11
Countermine Operations	8-12
Force Protection	8-13
 Appendix A. Orders and Annexes	 A-1
The Corps Order, the Engineer Annex, and the Topographic Operations Annex	A-1
Corps Order	A-1
Engineer Annex	A-1
Topographic Operations Annex	A-6
Engineer Unit Orders	A-19
Corps Engineer Unit WARNORD	A-20
Corps Engineer Unit OPOD	A-21
Corps Engineer Unit FRAGO	A-21
 Appendix B. Engineer Estimate	 B-1
Receiving the Mission	B-2
Facts and Assumptions	B-2
Engineer Battlefield Assessment	B-2
Terrain Analysis	B-3
Enemy Mission and Engineer Capabilities	B-3
Friendly Mission and Engineer Capabilities	B-5
Mission Analysis	B-7
Commander's Guidance	B-8
Scheme of Engineer Operations	B-9
War-Game and Refine Engineer Plan	B-10
Recommend a Course of Action	B-10
Finalize the Engineer Plan and Issue the Order	B-11

	Page
Appendix C. Corps Engineer Reports	C-1
NATO Standardization Agreement Report Formats	C-1
E201 - Engineer Reconnaissance	C-1
E202 - Engineer Annex	C-1
E203 - Engineer Report	C-1
E204 - Engineer Data Report	C-1
Corps Engineer Report Template	C-1
Appendix D. Key Leader Responsibilities	D-1
Commander	D-1
Corps Staff Responsibilities	D-1
Unit Responsibilities	D-1
DBC	D-2
Corps Staff Responsibilities	D-2
Unit Responsibilities	D-2
ACE	D-2
XO	D-3
CSM	D-3
Corps Staff Responsibilities	D-3
Unit Responsibilities	D-3
S1	D-4
Corps Staff Responsibilities	D-4
Unit Responsibilities	D-4
S2	D-4
Corps Staff Responsibilities	D-4
Unit Responsibilities	D-4
S3	D-5
Corps Staff Responsibilities	D-5
Unit Responsibilities	D-5
S4	D-5
Corps Staff Responsibilities	D-5
Unit Responsibilities	D-5
S5	D-6
Corps Staff Responsibilities	D-6
Unit Responsibilities	D-6
Engineer LO	D-6
Parent Engineer Unit Responsibilities	D-7
Engineer Liaison Officer Responsibilities	D-7
Assigned Unit Responsibilities	D-8
Appendix E. Joint Engineer Capabilities	E-1
Force-Projection Operations	E-1
US Air Force Engineer Support	E-1

	Page
Civil-Engineering Mission	E-1
RED HORSE Units	E-2
Prime BEEF Units	E-4
Prime RIBS Units	E-5
Engineering and Services Force Module	E-5
Army-Air Force Joint Engineer Considerations	E-5
US Navy Engineer Support	E-6
Naval Base Construction	E-6
Support to the US Marine Corps	E-6
Amphibious Operations	E-8
Support to the Maritime Pre-positioning Force	E-8
Naval Base Maintenance	E-9
Disaster Relief	E-9
Civic Action	E-9
Naval Construction Forces	E-9
Army-Navy Joint Engineer Considerations	E-11
US Marine Corps Engineer Support	E-12
Marine Air-Ground Task Force	E-12
Marine Expeditionary Force	E-13
Marine Expeditionary Brigade	E-13
Marine Expeditionary Unit	E-13
Marine Combat Engineer Battalion	E-13
Marine Engineer Operations Division	E-14
Marine Engineer Support Battalion	E-15
Army-Marine Corps Joint Engineer Considerations	E-16
Glossary	Glossary-1
References	References-1
Index	Index-1

PREFACE

This field manual (FM) is a guide for the employment of engineer forces in support of a United States (US) Army corps. It addresses the role, organization, and command and control of corps engineers and the conduct of corps-level engineer operations.

The primary users of this FM are the corps commander and his staff, the corps engineer and his staff, engineer units subordinate to the corps engineer brigade, and theater engineer organizations at echelons above corps (EAC). Other users will be engineer organizations supporting maneuver units subordinate to the corps and sister serviced commanders and staffs, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and government contractors.

The manual is fully compatible with the Army's operational doctrine as contained in FMs 100-5 and 100-7 and is consistent with current joint and multinational doctrine. This manual follows the format of FM 100-15 and supports the concepts and principles contained therein. It also complements FMs 5-71-100 and 5-116.

The proponent for this publication is the United States Army Engineer School (USAES). Submit changes for improvement on Department of the Army (DA) Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) to Commandant, US Army Engineer School, ATTN: ATSE-T-PD-PM, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, 65473-6650.

Unless this publication states otherwise, masculine nouns and pronouns do not refer exclusively to men.

CHAPTER 1

CORPS ENGINEER OPERATIONS

The objectives of the carpet-bombing effort in front of the VII Corps were to mask the assault and saturate enemy defensive sectors as far back as their direct-support artillery positions. Following the bombing, the 1st, 9th, and 30th Infantry divisions were to deliver a coordinated assault across a relatively narrow front and punch a hole through which the waiting 2nd and 3rd Armored divisions would launch a pursuit of the presumably routed German forces.

The 1106th Engineer Combat Group was moved up to the VII Corps' left flank to support directly the 30th Infantry Division and the initially trailing 2nd Armored Division as they advanced along high ground on the west bank of the Vire River. On the VII Corps right flank, the 1120th Engineer Combat Group would support the 4th and 9th Infantry divisions in the assault and the follow-on 3rd Armored Division in the pursuit. Our own 1111th Engineer Combat Group would act as the corps engineers in the VII Corps sector, devoting its efforts to opening and maintaining the supply routes and building and maintaining the longer, more permanent timber trestle bridges back along the MSR that would be opened by the advancing infantry and armor and initially cleared by the direct-support engineer combat battalions.

A description of Army breakout plans from the Normandy lodgment in July 1944. From the book, The First Across the Rhine, The Story of the 291st Engineer Combat Battalion. by Colonel David E. Pergrin with Eric Hammel.

THE ROLE OF CORPS ENGINEER FORCES

THE CORPS

The corps is the US Army unit capable of operating at both the tactical and operational levels of war. It is the instrument by which higher echelons of command conduct maneuvers at the operational level. Corps are tailored based on mission, enemy, terrain, troops, and time available (METT-T) to contain all combat, combat support (CS), and combat service support (CSS) unit capabilities required to sustain op-

erations for a considerable period. During force-projection operations, an Army corps may serve as the Army forces (ARFOR) headquarters to a theater command or joint task force (JTF) or as a JTF headquarters itself. The corps may control units from the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps, along with allied and coalition nations. A tailored corps engineer brigade is commonly available to the corps to weight its main effort and to perform special CS functions.